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THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

Volume 37 Berkeley, California, August, 1955 Number 8

JUNE TRIP TO BODEGA BAY AND RUSSIAN RIVER

The Sunday June field trip was held in Sonoma County on the 12th. Starting at 9 from Valley Ford under a typical coastal fog, the party proceeded to Doran Park on Bodega Bay for its first observations. Birds were not very numerous but were obliging and good views were obtained of several species. These included some late "hangers-on" from the wintering group, such as: Common and Arctic Loons, Horned Grebe, Black Brant and Surf Scoter.

Lunch was eaten at Goat Rock near the mouth of the Russian River. Two Tufted Puffins provided the find of the day as they were seen to good advantage for a short while thanks to the two tripod-mounted scopes that were available. At such a time the value of such equipment is realized. Lots of scenery and few additional species were seen thereafter. However, Ospreys fishing in the river were a wlcome sight to all. About 30 people participated and the list totalled 80 species. This includes a Mockingbird noted by myself just after the last of the main party had departed.

Common Loon, Arctic Loon, Horned Grebe, Western Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Brandt Cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Black Brant, Surf Scoter, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Osprey, Sparrow Hawk, Calif. Quail, Ring-necked Pheasant, Snowy Plover, Killdeer, Marbled Godwit 1, Sanderling 2, Northern Phalarope 1, Glaucous-winged Gull, Western Gull, Caspian Tern, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Tufted Puffin, Mourning Dove, Allen Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Acorn (Calif.) Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Western Kingbird, Black Phoebe, Western Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Violet-green Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Steller Jay, Scrub Jay, Raven, American Crow, Bush-tit, Brown Creeper, Wren-tit, Bewick Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Robin, Swainson (Olive-backed) Thrush, Mexican (Western) Bluebird, Warbling Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Pileolated Warbler, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Tricolored Blackbird, Bullock Oriole, Brewer Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Oregon Junco, Chipping Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow and Song Sparrow.

— GORDON L. BOLANDER, *Leader and Historian.*

JUNE TRIP TO GOLDEN GATE PARK

At 9 on Saturday, June 25, a group of 21 met at 43rd and Fulton Sts. at Golden Gate Park. The weather was partly cloudy but cleared up in the afternoon except it was very foggy at Land's End. We started out by going south towards the lakes, then over to Spreckels Lake and back to the cars. We lunched at Middle Lake of the Chain of Lakes. The highlight during lunch was hearing the Russet-backed (Olive-backed) Thrush singing. After lunch 7 of the group proceeded to Land's End where the fog was so thick that we saw very few species of birds. Finally we went up to the house of one of the members to look at an Allen Hummingbird's nest in a Monterey cypress about 20 feet from the ground. The following 36 species were seen: Brandt Cormorant, Mallard (with young), Baldpate, Calif. Quail, Coot (with young), Killdeer, Western Gull, Calif. Gull, Mourning Dove, Anna Hummingbird, Allen Hummingbird (with young), Red-shafted Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Violet-green Swallow, Barn Swallow, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Bush-tit, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Bewick Wren, Robin (with young), Olive-backed Thrush, Yellow-throat, Pileolated Warbler, House Sparrow, Brewer Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Oregon Junco, White-crowned Sparrow, and Song Sparrow.

— CHARLES HINES, JR., *Leader and Historian.*

POSSIBLE RECORD OF BOHEMAIN WAXWINGS IN EAST BAY

On the morning of February 3, 1955, at about 10, a clear sunny day, an extensive invasion of robins took place in a portion of Berkeley bounded by College and Telegraph Avenues, and Ashby and the Oakland city line. At least 1000 birds constituted the flock. Among these were a considerable number of waxwings. These latter showed some white in the wings and were distinctly larger than the common Cedar Waxwings. It is believed that these birds may have been Bohemain Waxwings, hitherto unrecorded in the area. The Bohemain waxwings commonly flock with robins in Oregon and Washington and the Cedar Waxwing does not do so. Motion pictures made at the time of this invasion suggest, although it was not realized until recently, strongly the probably determination of these robin associates.

— ARTHUR S. CAMPBELL.

I have heard of several reports of Bohemian Waxwings in the Bay area in the last few years. I do not believe the white on the wing is too good a field mark as I have seen this on Cedar Waxwings. Look for the chestnut-red under tail-coverts instead of white. This is easily seen when the bird is perched above as on telephone wires. Last Christmas a pyracantha tree in our yard was stripped in short order by a large number of Robins and Cedar Waxwings. A.L.C.

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome the following to our membership: from Berkeley, Miss Evelyn Chamberlin, Mrs. Catherine Ellis, and Miss Ada J. Fish; from Oakland, Mrs. Mervel Ball; from San Francisco, P. Max Abel, Norman C. Willey, and Dr. A. J. Williams.

— MRS. FRANK A. SCOTT, *Membership Chairman.*

SEPTEMBER BOAT TRIP TO SOUTHEAST FARALLON ISLAND

An offshore boat trip has been tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 11, leaving Berkeley at 6 a.m. with a stop to pick up other passengers at San Francisco. The destination is the Southeast Farallon Island and ocean area nearby. The sea is apt to be calmer at this time of year than in May. On September trips in past years many Jaegers (including long-tailed) have been found and Black-vented, Slender-billed, and Gray-backed Shearwaters can be expected as well as the commoner Sooty and Pink-footed. To make reservations, send your name, address, phone number, and $7 fare (checks payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society) by August 10 to the undersigned. A minimum or 12 and a maximum of 24 passengers can be taken. No refunds can be made after boat is chartered. Full instructions will be mailed to those sending reservations. Howard L. Cogswell, Box 486, Mills Collge, Oakland 13, Calif.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF FUTURE FIELDS TRIPS

Sun., Sept. 18 — Bay Farm Island.

Sat., Sept. 24 — Tilden Park.

Sat., Oct. 15 — Grass Valley Regional Park (which we did not reach last spring because of rain).

Sun., Oct. 23 — Conn Lake, Napa County.

Sun., Nov. 13 — Bolinas Lagoon and Point Reyes.

Sat., Nov. 26 — Orinda and San Pablo Reservoir.

Sat. - Sun., Dec. 10 - 11 — Sacramento Valley Wildlife Refuges.

Dec. 26 — San Francisco Christmas Count (Arthur H. Myer, leader).

AUDUBON CAMP OF CALIFORNIA—Two sessions are still to be held this summer at Sugar Bowl Lodge, August 7 - 20 and August 21—September 3. For further information contact the California Office of the National Audubon Office at the address on the back page.

For those who get tired of squinting through a telescope with one eye, an advertisement in the May Bulletin of the Massachusetts Audubon Society may be of interest, which offers binoculars made from twin Balscope Sr. 60 mm. scopes, for use only on tripods, with a choice of 15, 20, 30 or 60 power. Price, slightly high.

One sometimes finds bird news in unusual places. As an example, Chemical and Engineering News for June 27 has a note "Memo for Chemist-Bird Watchers". The fall meeting of the American Chemical Society is to be held in Minneapolis, and a side trip to Duluth is recommended for bird-watchers. There is a tremendous migration of hawks through Duluth during the 2nd and 3rd weeks of September. Watchers on Hawk Hill in Duluth have counted as many as 13,000 hawks within a four-day period. Eighteen different species have been identified. The high concentration of migrating birds over Duluth is probably because Lake Superior acts as a barrier and serves to funnel the birds through the city, which is located at the western tip. The editor knows one former president of the Society who is an ardent birder.

AUGUST MEETING

The 455th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held in the Assembly Room of the San Francisco Public Library, Civic Center, on August 11, at 7:30. After the usual business, Mr. David B. Marshall, Wildlife Management Biologist of the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge near Willows, will show colored slides to illustrate his talk on waterfowl management in California. This promises to be excellent program. Come and bring your friends.

— Mrs. Budd J. Smith, *Program Chairman.*

FIELD TRIPS FOR AUGUST

On Sunday, August 14, to Rodeo Lagoon, Marin County, which is now open to visitors without advance arrangement. Some migrant shorebirds can be expected, with Baird and Pectoral Sandpipers possible. One marshy pond here has always yielded rails upon diligent search; and there are also field, coastal shrub, and willow-bottom habitats. Meet at 9 at the Sausalito turn-off on U.S. 101 just north of the Golden Gate Bridge; or, if highway construction prevents parking there, continue a short distance on the Sausalito Road to the first left turn, and park near the sentry station. Bring picnic lunch to eat on the beach (by Fort Cronkhite at the outer end of the lagoon), also binoculars, telescope, and interested friends. Leader, Arthur J. Bennett, JUno 8-6702.

On Saturday, August 27, to Strawberry Canyon, Berkeley, for late summer and early migrant land birds, including hummingbirds and warblers (we hope). Meet at 9 at the Botanic Garden on the road leaving Gayley Road north of the U.C. Stadium. If those coming by bus are at Oxford St. and University Ave., Berkeley, (Key System "F" train, and 40, 43, 51, and 67 lines come to within a block) by 8:40, auto transportation to the canyon will be provided. Bring binoculars and interested friends, and lunch if desired. Leader, Howard L. Cogswell, TRinidad 3-6419.

— Howard L. Cogswell, *Field Trips Chairman.*

The editor wishes to thank former editor Miss Minnie Young, who got out the July GULL while he was on vacation.

Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

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Changes of Address should be sent to the Membership Chairman; claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Distribution Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and **National** $5.00 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE. Local Membership only, $1.50 per year.

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